the first person to suggest the possibilities of transmitting electrical power, in a paper submitted to the Imperial Academy of Sciences at Vienna in 1862. Other names in this field, however, enjoy a less vulnerable distinction.

Foremost among the physicists of the nineteenth century was Heinrich Hertz—a half Jew—who, bringing optics and electro-dynamics under one doctrinal discipline, made an important advance towards the unification of modern physics. His *Principles of Mechanics* is still considered, after many years, the fundamental work in this branch of study. The great discovery with which his name is associated is the possibility of the transmission of electro-magnetic waves through space—the basis of the wireless system suggested first by Clerk Maxwell and subsequently applied to commercial purposes by Marconi, and of the radio system which has assumed such importance in every household during the past two decades. He died, not yet forty years of age, in 1894, when he is believed to have been on the point of anticipating ROntgen in the invention of the X-ray.[1] In this connexion, mention may be made of Leo Graetz, son of the famous historian of the Jews, the first person to investigate the dispersal of electrical waves, whose name is thus intimately associated with the whole range of modern science.

So far for the theoretical side. On the mechanical, there is fully as much to be said. It was a Jew of German birth, Philip $_{t}$Reis$_{3}$ who was responsible for the genesis

of that every-day necessity of modern life, the telephone.

The son of very poor parents, and almost self-educated,

he began to be interested in the possibilities of controlling

[1] It is a little absurd to try to evaluate the paternal and maternal contribution to genius. But it is not without its significance that Hertz's cousin on the side of his Jewish father was the Nobel Prizeman, Gustav Hertz; this seems to indicate that, in this instance, the Hebraic factor was decisive.